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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 31 | Min 22 | Humidity 69% Mostly cloudy Sensex 76,808 | Nifty 23,989 | Gold 1,52,746 | Silver 2,49,504 | Dollar 94.51 | Euro 109.89 | GBP 126.98

DEBRIS DUMP

Contractors engaged by government agencies dumping construction & demolition waste at Banaswadi Lake premises

PAGE 4

WILD THINGS

Conservationists and forest officials raise alarm over unruly tourist behaviour after latest incident of attack on elephants

PAGE 6

Work undertaken at Freedom Park cost the exchequer Rs 5 crore, but this is the scene as of now — sewage overflows from toilet blocks, walking path is unfinished and has no lights, drinking water unit is defunct

DEVELOPMENT WORK IS NO WALK IN THE PARK

Protesters, park visitors left in the lurch due to delay in work

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The Bengaluru Central City Corporation (BCCC) took up developmental works at Freedom Park in 2025 and the then BCCC Commissioner claimed that 95% of the work was completed in December 2025 itself. However, there is nothing to celebrate about the work that cost the exchequer Rs 5 crore. A major portion of the pathway is yet to be developed and damaged cables are yet to be replaced, which has left the pathway in the dark making evening walks a difficult task.

What is most shocking is that basic amenities remain elusive for the hundreds of people, who gather in front of Freedom Park to stage protests in support of their demands. The newly-constructed toilet blocks serve no purpose due to underground drainage pipes

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

KAUSHIK JN

As the wires are damaged, there is no light on the pathway at Freedom Park; drinking water facility at the entrance is defunct; wash basins are damaged; sewage overflows from the toilet blocks

Ramp it up

Survey finds gaps in disabled-friendly infra in city — absence of accessible parking biggest issue; several buildings have features that fall short of actual need

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Despite growing awareness around accessibility and inclusive design, a large number of public spaces in Bengaluru continue to remain difficult to access for persons with disabilities, according to data from the Association of People with Disability's (APD) Yes to Access (YTA) platform.

The AI-powered Yes to Access app, developed by APD, enables citizens to assess public spaces for accessibility and identify barriers that affect independent mobility and access.

Of the more than 2,00,000 accessibility audits conducted across Karnataka through the platform, 16,265 assessments were carried out in Bengaluru. The findings reveal persistent gaps in basic accessibility features across the city.

The most frequently reported issue was the absence of accessible parking, identified in 11,530 locations. This was followed by the lack of approach signage in 6,106 locations, making it difficult for users to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Play time

Antharanga presents Olacharandi Purana, a satirical play adapted from Dr Nagathihalli Chandrashekhar's story by Dr Gowrish Joshi, exposing bureaucratic apathy toward environment with wit, surrealism and sharp social commentary. **Where: Indian Institute of World Culture, Basavanagudi; When: June 18, 7.15 pm**

02 Booked for inspiration

Bhartiya Mall of Bengaluru invites book lovers to immerse themselves in the world of stories, ideas and inspiration at the Big Bangalore Book Fest, where celebrated literary voices will engage readers through exclusive author meet-and-greet sessions. **Where: Bhartiya Mall of Bengaluru; When: June 20 (5.30 pm, 6.30 pm), June 27 (5 pm)**

03 Savour the stories

Divine Delicacies, a storytelling and menu tasting session by Aparna Jaishankar, offers a sensory journey through India's sacred kitchens while uncovering the myths, history and folklore behind beloved temple prasadams. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: June 21, 12.30 pm**

04 Musical moments

The Indian Music Experience Museum (IME) is set to host World Music Weekend 2026, a three-day festival, bringing together artists, listeners and music enthusiasts to explore how music transcends cultures, geographies and histories. **Where: The Indian Music Experience Museum (IME); When: June 19 to 21**

05 Weekend made fun

Pet Circle is a vibrant two-day celebration bringing interactive experiences, shopping, entertainment, community moments and leading pet brands under one roof for pet parents and their furry companions. **Where: Nexus Vega City Mall; When: June 20, 21, 10.30 am**

Banks told not to operate beyond agency mandates

Banks perform limited role when implementing directions issued by investigating agencies and cannot expand scope of such directions on their own, says HC

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The Karnataka High Court has ruled that banks cannot freeze an entire bank account when investigating agencies have directed them to block only a specified sum. The court held that any restriction on the operation of an account must remain limited to the amount identified by the authorities and should not extend beyond the scope of the directions received.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj made the observation while allowing a petition filed by Bengaluru resident Madhu, who challenged the freezing of his entire account by IndusInd Bank despite police communications seeking a freeze of only Rs 25,000.

The petitioner argued that the investigating agencies had sought freezing of only specific amounts and that the bank's decision to block access to the entire account was arbitrary.

The bank, however, defended its action by stating that it had received two separate communications—one from cybercrime police in Gujarat seeking a freeze of Rs 15,000 and another from police in Barrackpore, West Bengal, seeking a freeze of Rs 10,000. According to the bank, the account was fully frozen because it anticipated the possibility of further directions from investigating authorities.

The court stressed that banks perform a limited role when implementing directions issued by investigating agencies and cannot expand the scope of such directions on their own assumptions or apprehensions. It noted that the authority of a bank is restricted by the terms of the orders it receives.

IN HIGH COURT

The court further observed that restrictions on bank accounts carry significant civil and financial consequences and must therefore be proportionate to the purpose they seek to achieve. Allowing the petition, the High Court directed that the freeze be limited to Rs 25,000 and permitted the account holder to operate the balance amount.

'Online RTI hearing decision lies with government'

The Karnataka High Court has declined to issue directions requiring the state government to provide online or hybrid hearing facilities for first appeals filed under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, holding that the issue falls within the government's policy-making domain.

A bench led by Justice M Nagaprasanna disposed of a petition filed by Bengaluru resident M Pranava, who challenged a communication issued on November 25, 2025, by a first appellate authority under the RTI Act. The communication had rejected his request to participate in the proceedings virtually and directed him to appear in person. Pranava had sought the quashing of the communication and a broader direction requiring all first appellate authorities under the RTI Act to offer online or hybrid hearing options.

While considering the plea, the court noted that although the Supreme Court had encouraged governments to explore virtual hearing mechanisms, there was no binding requirement to implement them.

Refusing to grant the relief sought, the court said, "Providing online hearing being a policy decision of the University and State of Karnataka, the above relief cannot be granted, the petition stands disposed."

PIL dismissed as publicity stunt

The Karnataka High Court on Tuesday dismissed a public interest litigation (PIL) that questioned the appointment of DK Shivakumar as the Chief Minister of Karnataka, holding that the petition lacked merit and appeared to have been filed for publicity. The court also imposed costs on the petitioner for pursuing what it termed a frivolous case.
A division bench observed that the PIL did not raise any substantial legal grounds warranting judicial intervention. While dismissing the plea, the court expressed its disapproval of the misuse of the PIL mechanism and directed the petitioner to pay costs, signalling that such petitions should not burden the judicial system.
The petition had sought to challenge Shivakumar's elevation to the post of Chief Minister following political developments within the ruling Congress government in Karnataka. However, the court found no legal basis to interfere with the appointment process and declined to entertain the challenge.

GPS, face-recognition attendance made mandatory for government staff

Government employees, including IAS and KAS officers, will no longer be able to skip office duties without being tracked. The state has directed all remaining departments, corporations and boards to immediately adopt the KaryaMitra Attendance Management System (KAMS), a geo-tagged, AI-powered facial recognition attendance platform that records an employee's location and presence in real time. The move follows Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's directive that officials must be present at their headquarters every morning and publicly disclose tour details whenever they are away on official work.

Developed entirely within the government's digital ecosystem without private technology partners, KAMS uses facial recognition, geo-tagging, geofencing and Aadhaar e-KYC integration to prevent proxy attendance and verify physical presence at workplaces. The platform can be accessed through Android and iOS applications for attendance, leave and official-duty entries. According to Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh, the number of registered employees has jumped from 2.46 lakh to 3.01 lakh within a week, a 25 per cent increase. The School Education Department leads adoption, followed by the Health and Family Welfare Department. **— BMB**

KEA set to open option entry soon

Engineering aspirants may not have to wait much longer. Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) Executive Director H Prasanna said option entry for engineering and other professional courses will open within a day of receiving the final seat matrix and fee structure from the state government. The counselling process was originally scheduled to begin on June 10 but was delayed because the Higher Education Department had not furnished the final seat matrix. KEA expects to receive it within the next couple of days.

Prasanna also urged candidates unable to download their verification slips to resolve pending issues before June 19. Students who have not uploaded PUC marks, completed document verification, or updated RD numbers linked to fresh caste certificates under SC internal reservation categories must update the details online or visit the KEA office after booking an appointment through the website. He clarified that candidates under All India General Merit and Karnataka Open Merit categories need not visit the KEA office, as seat allotment will be based on the final seat matrix issued by the government. **— BMB**

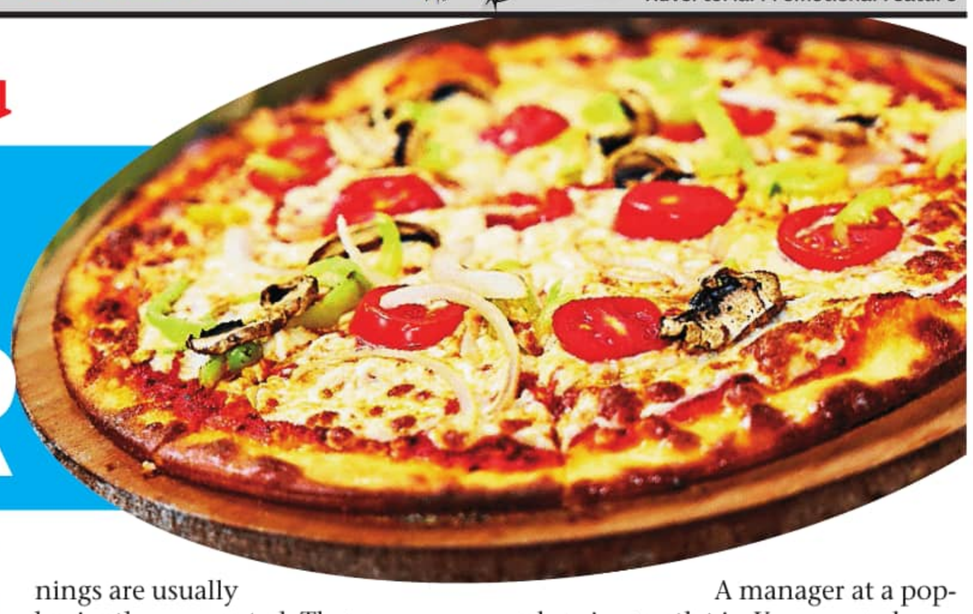
Gulf conflict has left mango growers in a pickle

If you are surprised by excess mangoes this season and at low prices, the Middle East conflict is the reason. On the other hand, mango growers face heavy losses this season. A sharp fall in production, weak domestic demand and disrupted exports to Gulf countries have triggered a price crash in wholesale markets. Farmers say Totapuri mango, widely used for pulp and juice production, is fetching just Rs 4-5 per kg at the Srinivaspur APMC, far below production costs.

Growers attribute the crisis partly to the ongoing conflict in West Asia, which has hit exports of mango pulp to Gulf nations. Karnataka typically exports over two lakh tonnes of mango pulp to the region every year. This season, however, exports have virtually come to a halt. At the same time, mango arrivals from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh have flooded the market. Unseasonal rains during the harvest period have also affected fruit quality and shelf life. With cultivation costs estimated at around Rs 12,000 per tonne and returns of barely Rs 4,000 at current prices, growers are demanding a government incentive of Rs 4 per kg, similar to the support provided during last year's price slump. **— BMB**

Wednesday means one thing in B'luru

PIZZA DEALS & MIDWEEK CHEER



For many Bengalureans, Wednesday is no longer just another workday squeezed between Monday blues and Friday excitement. It has quietly become the city's unofficial pizza day. Across Bengaluru, pizza outlets witness a noticeable spike in orders every Wednesday, thanks to attractive buy-one-get-one offers, combo deals and discounted menus. For office-goers, students and families looking for an affordable treat, the middle of the week has become synonymous with cheese-loaded indulgence.

The trend has grown steadily over the years, fuelled by food delivery apps and restaurant chains eager to attract customers during an otherwise slow business day. Today, many Bengaluru residents specifically wait for Wednesdays before placing their pizza orders. "It has become a ritual for our team. Most of us work from home on Wednesdays. Around lunch, someone drops a message in the office group and we end up ordering pizzas together. The discounts make it much easier on the pocket," says Mithun Gowda, a software engineer.

A FEW EXTRA TOPPINGS OF PIZZA KNOWLEDGE

- World's first pizzeria, Antica Pizzeria Port'Alba, is said to have opened in **Naples in 1738**, using ovens lined with lava from Mount Vesuvius
- Margherita pizza was reportedly **named in 1889** after Queen Margherita of Savoy, designed to resemble the Italian flag (tomato, mozzarella, basil)
- World's largest pizza was baked in Los Angeles in **January 2023** and measured **nearly 1,300** square metres

The appeal goes beyond just saving money. For many, it is about breaking the monotony of the workweek. "Wednesday feels like a checkpoint. You have survived the first half of the week and deserve a small reward. Pizza is our comfort food and the offers make the decision even easier," says Kusuma Karthik, a marketing professional from Indiranagar.

Food delivery executives also notice the rush. "Wednesday evenings are usually busier than expected. There are a lot of pizza orders, especially from residential areas where families order dinner together," says delivery partner Mohammed Haneef.

Bengaluru's young population, thriving startup culture and growing food scene have contributed significantly to the popularity of pizza. The city has embraced international cuisines while also giving them a local touch. From paneer tikka toppings to spicy Indian-inspired flavours, pizza has evolved into a mainstream favourite.

College students are perhaps the biggest beneficiaries of Wednesday deals. "As students, we are always looking for offers," said Navya Kumar, a postgraduate student in Jayanagar. "A discounted pizza means we can hang out with friends without worrying too much about expenses," she said.

A manager at a popular pizza outlet in Koramangala noted that weekends are naturally busy, but Wednesdays help create excitement during weekdays. "Customers actively look for deals and many plan their orders around them," said the manager. Social media has further amplified the trend. Posts about pizza offers often begin circulating early on Wednesday morning, reminding food lovers that their favourite discounts are back.

As Bengaluru continues to balance hectic work schedules with a growing appetite for convenience and comfort, Wednesday pizza deals have become more than a marketing strategy. They are now part of the city's urban culture. In a city that runs on technology and tight schedules, that midweek slice of happiness seems to be exactly what many are looking forward to.

Lake languishes under attack of the debris dumping gang

Citizens allege contractors engaged by govt agencies dumping construction & demolition waste at Banaswadi Lake that was recently cleared of encroachments

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Residents living around Banaswadi Lake on Tuesday raised alarm over large-scale dumping of construction and demolition (C&D) waste, mud, and garbage within the lake premises. Residents alleged the debris originated from the destruction and cleaning of stormwater drains and was dumped inside the lakebed by contractors engaged by government agencies.

The lake area, recently recovered from encroachments, cleaned, and fenced by the Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC), is reportedly deteriorating again. Residents allege that sections of the protective fencing have been damaged, while a temporary mud road has been created to allow tractors and trucks carrying waste to enter the lake premises.

Following the incident, members of the Federation of Bengaluru North East Residents Welfare Associations approached BNCC officials and brought the matter to the attention of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Commissioner.

"The volume of debris dumped suggests that more than 20 to 30 truckloads of waste have been deposited inside the lake area. When we questioned one of the lorry drivers, he told us that a corporation engineer had instructed him to dump the C&D waste mixed with mud and garbage at the site. The lake fencing has also been damaged during the process," said Christopher S Cruz, a resident and member of the Federation.

Banaswadi Lake faces renewed degradation despite conservation and revival plans

"When we questioned one of the lorry drivers, he told us that a corporation engineer had instructed him to dump the C&D waste mixed with mud and garbage at the site. The lake fencing has also been damaged during the process

– Christopher S Cruz, resident of the area

BNCC officials acknowledged that debris has been illegally dumped at the site and alleged that engineers associated with government agencies, including B-SMILE and the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), were responsible.

"These agencies have been dumping debris generated from civil works inside the lake area with assurances that it would be cleared later. We recently removed such waste from the site, but dumping has continued. The corporation's executive engineer has now been instructed to issue warnings and initiate FIRs against those responsible," a BNCC official said.

Residents expressed concern over the continued degradation of the long-neglected Banaswadi Lake, saying actions by public agencies are undermining conservation efforts despite ongoing lake restoration initiatives across Bengaluru. They urged authorities to stop dumping immediately, remove existing debris, and repair damaged fencing to prevent further encroachment and misuse.

"We have requested the authorities to investigate how such dumping was permitted in the first place and to take corrective action. Public resources such as lakes and lakebeds must be protected, not compromised. Authorities must work on this issue as a priority and take immediate remedial measures," Cruz added.

"Historically, Banaswadi Lake covered about 48 acres. However, a significant portion has been lost to encroachments, leaving around 17 acres available for restoration. We have earmarked ₹3 crore for lake development works, and additional CSR funding may also be mobilised. Development and rejuvenation of Banaswadi Lake will be taken up soon," Kumar said.

Weed-choked playground springs back to life

Headmistress-led cleanup removes overgrown weeds from school premises, allowing students access to playground and equipment after years of neglect

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Till last Monday, around 30 students of Government Tamil and English Medium Higher Primary School hesitated to use the playground as it was overrun with grass and weeds. They could not access the play equipment on the premises due to the overgrowth.

Now, the students can utilise the premises and play equipment without any hassle, thanks to Headmistress Tamil Selvi, who engaged workers to clear the grass and weeds from the school compound.

Bangalore Mirror published a story, Weeds, crumbling walls mark school building's sorry plight, on June 15, highlighting the poor condition of the government school. The report noted that the school roof was leaking, compound walls had developed cracks, and children could not access the play area because of the overgrown weeds and grass. Children are now happy to see the compound clean and free of weeds. "I am very happy to see the school compound neat and clean. I joined this school four years ago. We used to hesitate even to enter the vacant space due to weeds and grass. Now, we can use the play equipment," said Roopavathy C, a student.

Expressing a similar opinion, Shakthivel G, a Class 6 student, said the overgrown grass and weeds had been a nuisance for students.

Bangalore Mirror
Weeds, crumbling walls mark school building's sorry plight
Roof of government school is leaking; its compound walls have developed cracks and children can't access unkempt play area overrun by weeds

BM had reported on June 15 that students and teachers face challenges due to poor upkeep of school premises

"I have been a student here for the last three years. Earlier, I could not use the play equipment due to the weeds and grass. Now, the compound is clean and neat. We can use the compound to play games," said Shakthivel G, a student

Brahmananda Reddy, a resident of Gupta Layout, said he was happy to see the school compound clean and neat. Advising teachers to ensure cleanliness within the premises, he said, "Teachers must maintain the school compound for the benefit of students."

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Construction lapse

Ashok Nagar

A newly laid drainage slab on Vidyapeeta Main Road in Ashok Nagar collapsed beneath a schoolboy, who narrowly escaped injury, while a senior citizen behind him also avoided falling into the drain.

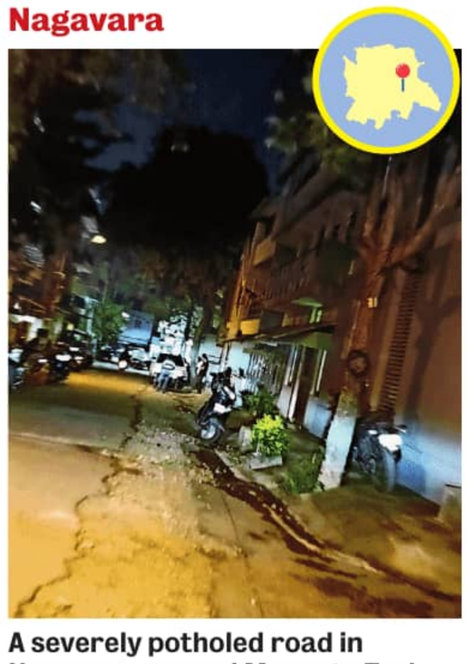
Pothole peril

Kodigehalli

A commuter suffered a serious fall on a badly damaged road at Kodigehalli Gate, exposing poor maintenance and raising concerns over pedestrian and motorist safety.

Unsafe stretch

Nagavara



A severely potholed road in Nagavara around Manyata Tech Park area has become a safety hazard, prompting calls for immediate repairs by GBA.

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Fake buyers go for gold

Police have arrested the accused who had stolen gold jewellery from a Malleshwaram resident on May 16. Posing as a manager and a staff member, the accused visited the victim's residence on Sampige Road under the pretext of buying the gold. They allegedly pretended to photograph the ornaments, stole them and fled. Following a complaint, the police launched an investigation that led to the arrest of two accused and the recovery of 1kg 8g of stolen gold worth Rs 1.64 crore.

Police conducted inquiries that led to the arrest of one of the accused near the flyover at Anand Rao Circle in Seshadripuram on May 18. The accused was taken into police custody for 13 days on May 19, during which he allegedly revealed that he had been working in coordination with three accomplices. Based on the information provided, police apprehended another accused in front of Prarthana Samaj in Mumbai on May 20. Acting on his disclosures, officers recovered 220g of stolen gold jewellery from Zaveri Bazaar in Mumbai.

Further investigation revealed that portions of the stolen jewellery had been handed over to friends of the accused in Chickpet, Avalahalli and Guttahalli.

Police subsequently recovered 788g of gold jewellery from these locations between May 24 and 30, taking the total recovery to 1kg 8g, valued at Rs 1.64 crore.

The two accused were remanded in judicial custody on May 30. Police are searching for the remaining two suspects involved in the theft. —BMB

23 held in mega drug bust

Officers of the CCB Narcotics Control Wing, along with police teams, have seized 5kg 360g of hydroponic ganja, 143g of cocaine, 10kg 998g of ganja, 237g of MDMA, 107g of methamphetamine, 180 boxes of e-cigarette oil, along with e-cigarettes, 452 boxes of foreign cigarettes, 1,206 hookah cigarettes, 1,197 e-cigarettes, 490 foreign cigarettes, 126 hookah sets and 100 e-cigarette refills.

According to officials, the items were purchased for Rs 4 crore and were to be sold for an estimated Rs 8 crore. Police have arrested 23 people in connection with the case, of whom two are foreign nationals, six are from other states and 15 are local residents actively involved in the supply of banned narcotic substances and tobacco products.

Acting on tip-offs, officials raided multiple locations and arrested 23 people. The accused allegedly admitted to selling banned substances sourced from unidentified suppliers. They have been remanded in judicial custody, and investigations are ongoing. **BMB**

60 stolen bikes recovered

Officials from the Jayanagar and Sampigehalli police stations have arrested three people involved in the theft of 60 two-wheelers valued at Rs 37 lakh.

According to police records, separate cases of two-wheeler theft were registered at the two police stations. Acting on leads, officers developed intelligence and arrested one of the accused near the railway underpass in Shrirampur.

During interrogation, the accused allegedly admitted to their involvement in multiple vehicle thefts and were subsequently taken into police custody following court orders. During custody, they revealed that some of the stolen vehicles had been parked in a vacant space near Brindavan Park, while others were concealed near eucalyptus groves in Chokkanahalli and Agrahara. Police recovered 25 two-wheelers from unsuspecting buyers and another 35 from various locations. The three accused are linked to 11 vehicle theft cases across the city. —BMB

Sleep buried under construction chaos

Builders burn midnight oil while sleep-deprived families demand quiet and action from authorities

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Residents of Meenakshi Layout have been facing significant problems due to noise pollution caused by workers excavating and filling adjacent land for the construction of a large residential complex. They say they are not opposed to development work, but simply want to be able to get a good night's sleep. The noise has become unbearable, particularly for senior citizens, pregnant women, postnatal mothers and infants.

Residents have made every effort to secure the basic necessity of uninterrupted sleep at night, but relief remains elusive despite repeated complaints to the senior project manager of the construction company. Left with no alternative, they contacted the Hoysala Squad after being unable to sleep beyond 2.50 am on Friday due to noise generated by workers and heavy machinery at the construction site. The Hoysala Squad arrived and instructed the workers to stop operations, stating that continuing construction work after midnight violated prescribed norms.

Residents were pleased when an assistant sub-inspector attached to the Hoysala Squad directed the workers to cease work. However, their relief was short-lived, as the workers resumed construction shortly after the squad left the site.

"We are not against the construction project. Our demand is simply that excavation and dumping work should not be carried out at night. Work may continue until 10 pm or 11 pm, but it becomes difficult, especially for senior citizens and patients, to sleep after that because of the noise. I am grateful to the Hoysala Squad for responding promptly and directing the workers to stop. However, they resumed work as soon as the squad left. What is the point of calling the Hoysala Squad if the workers do not comply even after being instructed to stop?" asked JC Reddy, President of the Meenakshi Layout Owners' Association. He added that residents had approached Varthur Police Station because the workers ignored the Hoysala Squad's directive. Many residents said the noise pollution had become both a nuisance and a health hazard.

"I have a four-month-old baby. The noise is extremely difficult to cope with. I have lodged complaints with the authorities, but nothing has been done to stop the work at night," said Nishanth, a resident.

"I could not sleep because of the noise caused by workers and trucks engaged by the builder. I urge the authorities concerned to take appropriate measures to prevent the use of heavy machinery and labour for construction work during the night," said a pregnant resident.

Anthony Lawrence, Secretary of the Meenakshi Layout Owners' Association, said the project manager had continued night-time construction despite repeated complaints, causing considerable inconvenience to residents.

"We have lodged a complaint with Varthur Police. I hope the authorities take appropriate action in the interests of residents," he said. When contacted, Narayana Swamy, an assistant sub-inspector attached to the Hoysala Squad, said he had directed the workers to stop and advised residents to lodge a written complaint at Varthur Police Station. "I have no authority to take further action as the construction site does not fall under Whitefield Police Station's jurisdiction. Our Hoysala vehicle happened to be near the site when residents called 112," he said. Selvan, Senior Project Manager at Sumadhura Constructions, said noise-control measures, including barricade sheets, would be installed. The Varthur Police Inspector also assured residents that the matter would be examined.

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Tourists go wild, attack peacefully grazing jumbo

Reckless stone-pelting incidents highlight rising disregard for public safety, as experts warn of impulsive aggression and reduced empathy in society

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From repeated stone-pelting incidents targeting moving trains in and around Bengaluru, where passengers have been injured, to a shocking case of a wild elephant being attacked inside Nagarahole National Park, Karnataka is witnessing a disturbing pattern of reckless public behaviour that experts say reflects a growing disregard for safety, both human and animal.

In the latest incident, a wild elephant grazing along the Mysuru–Manandavadi highway stretch inside Nagarahole National Park was allegedly pelted with stones by a group of tourists, sparking outrage among conservationists and forest officials. The elephant, locally known as "Junior Bhogeshwara," was seen retreating into the forest after being struck, according to a video that has gone viral on social media. The incident took place last week when tourists travelling through the H D Kote forest corridor stopped their vehicles after spotting the elephant near the roadside. While the stretch is a regulated eco-sensitive zone where stopping and photography are permitted only under strict rules, eyewitnesses alleged that some visitors stepped out of their vehicles and escalated the situation by throwing stones at the animal.

Conservationists call for CCTV cameras and tougher enforcement after repeated violations inside protected forest corridors despite warning boards

Video of attack by tourists travelling through HD Kote forest corridor goes viral; stretch is regulated eco-sensitive zone where stopping and photography is restricted, but visitors broke all rules when they saw the elephant

The elephant, initially seen calmly grazing, was startled after being hit and immediately moved deeper into the forest. Another set of tourists following the same route reportedly confronted the group, questioning their actions, but received no response. The video of the incident, recorded by a passing traveller, has since triggered widespread condemnation online.

Environmental activists have demanded strict action against those involved, saying the incident reflects repeated violations inside protected forest areas despite clear warning boards and regulated entry systems. They have also called for CCTV surveillance along forest stretches and stronger enforcement of forest rules. Forest department officials are yet to issue a detailed statement on the incident, but sources said vehicle entry records and timed permits could help trace those involved.

Psychiatrist Sunitha Kumar said such incidents, whether involving trains or wildlife, point to a troubling behavioural pattern. "Stone-pelting is often a form of impulsive aggression. In group settings, individuals feel a reduced sense of accountability, which lowers inhibitions and increases the likelihood of risky or harmful behaviour," she said, adding that the trend becomes more dangerous when it is repeated in different public environments. "Whether it is stones being thrown at moving trains or at animals in forests, the underlying issue is the same: reduced empathy, thrill-seeking behaviour, and a lack of immediate consequences," she explained. She also pointed out the role of social media. "When such acts are recorded and circulated widely, even with criticism, they can unintentionally encourage imitation. The visibility creates a sense of attention around the act, which can reinforce it in vulnerable individuals," she said.

Meanwhile, conservation groups have urged the Forest Department to strengthen surveillance inside Nagarahole, including installing CCTV cameras along key corridors and imposing stricter penalties for rule violations.

KPTCL boosts power flow without expansion

The Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL) has launched a pilot project on the 220 kV Puttenahalli-Sahakarnagar transmission corridor to test Dynamic Line Rating (DLR) technology. The system uses IoT-based sensors to monitor weather and line conditions in real time, allowing operators to safely increase the amount of electricity carried through existing transmission infrastructure. KPTCL estimates the technology could boost transmission capacity by up to 25% without additional land acquisition or major capital investment. The pilot comes as Bengaluru's electricity demand continues to rise due to rapid urbanisation, growing EV adoption, data centres and technology-driven industries. If successful, the technology could be expanded to other high-load transmission corridors across Karnataka. Energy Minister K J George said the project would help maximise existing infrastructure and meet rising power demand more efficiently. — BMB

Police fight rowdy sheet closure orders

The Bengaluru City Police are examining legal options to reinstate rowdy sheets that were recently ordered to be closed by the Karnataka State Police Complaints Authority (KSPCA), Police Commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh said during a press conference held on Tuesday. The move comes amid growing concern over the impact of such closures on police monitoring of habitual offenders, including notorious rowdy-sheeter Silent Sunil alias Sunil Kumar. According to the Commissioner, around seven rowdy-sheeters in Bengaluru and nearly 66 across Karnataka have benefited from orders directing the removal of their names from rowdy registers. "We are verifying the documents and examining the legal aspects to revoke the orders. The matter is also being discussed with the State police chief for necessary directions," Singh told reporters. The KSPCA recently ordered the closure of the rowdy sheet against Silent Sunil, citing procedural lapses and non-compliance with Karnataka High Court guidelines. The authority, however, permitted fresh proceedings in accordance with the law. — BMB

K-RERA orders builder to transfer assets, upholds homebuyers' rights

Authority directs promoters to hand over khata, utilities, funds and pending amenities, strengthening accountability towards residents

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Karnataka Real Estate Regulatory Authority (K-RERA) has directed a builder to transfer the land's khata, BESCOM meters, water meters, corpus fund, balance of escrow account, and render accounts regarding maintenance to authorised association of allottees formed under the laws applicable within 90 days from the date of its order.

The K-RERA, while hearing a petition filed by Yoganandan Jagannathan, one of the flat owners, against Smart Value Homes (Peenya Project) Private Limited and Tata Value Homes Ltd, ordered the respondents to restore the power supply of the DG set to the complainant's apartment and complete the assured amenities of the project as per the terms of the agreements.

The complainant alleged that the promoter had promised to arrange Cauvery water supply to all flats in the complex. "However, the promoters have not supplied Cauvery water till date, even after the lapse of more than six years from the date of purchase. Further, they have not put in the necessary infrastructure for the supply of Cauvery water like separate pipe lines, as there are only two pipe lines, one for borewell water supply and another for the supply of treated water to the toilet as well as they have not installed overhead tanks for storing Cauvery water. However, they have collected the deposits for supply of Cauvery water to all the flats and did not do any base work. However, they should refund the amount of Rs 14,895 collected as deposit towards Cauvery water connection and supply to the flat with interest at 18 percent per year from October 18, 2017," the complaint reads.

The respondents told K-RERA that the residents' association for the project had been registered under both the Karnataka Apartment Ownership Act, 1972, and the Karnataka Societies Registration Act, 1960. "The same has been expressly provided for and mentioned in the Deed of Declaration executed for the project and elections have been conducted under the free and fair manner. The association has taken over the maintenance and facilities management of the project. We do not have any role in the management of the project, except for paying maintenance charges for the unsold flats. The dispute raised by the complainant in relation to disconnection of generator service is between the association and the complainant and it does not relate to us," the reply from respondents reads. Meanwhile, Karnataka Home Buyers Forum Convenor Dhananjaya Padmanabhachar welcomed the K-RERA order. "This is one of the landmark orders to protect the interest of home buyers land rights in Karnataka," said Dhananjaya Padmanabhachar.

Missing woman reunited with family

Around 3.34 am on Sunday, a citizen noticed that a mentally distressed and unwell woman was wandering near Siddhartha School all by herself. They notified the police through the emergency helpline, and within 12 minutes, Hoysala 115 from Peenya Police Station reached the location. The police located the woman and found that she was 45 years old and suffering from a mental illness. The police then traced her husband, Shivanna, and after due verification, the woman, identified as Lakshmamma, was handed over to him. The police advised her husband to take her to NIMHANS for further evaluation, treatment, and support. — BMB

Underdogs hold fort

Big upsets at the World Cup so far have been matches ending at 0-0, 1-1 and 2-2

Cape Verde's Jovane Cabral and teammates celebrate after the match

The teams that are ranked 61st, 67th and 85th in FIFA's world rankings all were heavy underdogs in their first matches at the World Cup.

They all played Monday. None of them won. None of them lost, either.

Through five days and 16 matches of soccer's biggest extravaganza ever, the underdogs are proving to be very tough to beat. All four matches on Monday ended in ties - the most in a single day of men's World Cup play since 1958 - and all of them technically could be considered upsets as well.

The biggest win (that wasn't a win) of all saw Cape Verde - ranked No. 67 and in its World Cup debut - hold No. 2 Spain, a favorite to win the whole thing, 0-0 in what easily has been the biggest shocker of the tournament to this point.

"It means everything," said Cape Verde coach Pedro Leitao Brito, who simply goes by Bubista.

The other Monday results:

- No. 85 New Zealand, the lowest-ranked team out of the 48 qualifiers entering the World Cup, tied No. 20 Iran 2-2.
- No. 61 Saudi Arabia tied No. 16 Uruguay 1-1.
- No. 29 Egypt tied No. 9 Belgium 1-1.

For Monday's underdogs, the ties were a pretty big deal. But even they knew what the Cape Verde score meant in the grand scheme of things.

"The draw involving Spain," Saudi Arabia coach Georgios Donis said, "may be the biggest surprise in this World Cup."

Four years ago, the Saudis opened with a shocking win over eventual champion Argentina.

Mehdi Ghayedi (top) of Iran competes during the group G match between Iran and New Zealand

Saudi Arabia's goalkeeper Mohammed Alowais saves a goal during the group H match between Saudi Arabia and Uruguay

Egypt's Zizo in action with Belgium's Maxim De Cuyper

The World Cup isn't like the NCAA tournament. Nobody is eliminated or assured of advancing no matter the outcome of their first match. But if this event was more like March Madness, it's certain that plenty of brackets would already be busted.

What are the odds

Spain was -1500 to beat Cape Verde according to odds posted just before the match started Monday. Those are overwhelming odds, ones that mean bettors would have had to wager $1,500 just to profit $100. And oddsmakers in Las Vegas said Spain was picked to win in a slew of parlays, all of which were quickly doomed.

"This shows how difficult it is to play (the first game) in a World Cup," Uruguay's Maxi Araujo said. "We've seen that they are difficult - not only in our group, but in many groups."

He's right. And there's not much margin of error now in Groups F and H.

Teams are guaranteed three group-stage matches at the World Cup, one against each of the other three teams in their group. The top two finishers in each of the 12 groups are assured of reaching the knockout stage; the eight best third-place teams also will advance.

But in Group F (New Zealand, Iran, Belgium and Egypt) and Group H (Uruguay, Saudi Arabia, Spain and Cape Verde), everyone has exactly one point with two matches left. Teams get three points for a win, no points for a loss.

"A lot of positives to build on," New Zealand's Elijah Just said.

The upsets-that-were-ties trend didn't start Monday. There were two other significant ones earlier in the tournament: No. 56 Qatar tied No. 19 Switzerland 1-1, and No. 64 Bosnia and Herzegovina tied No. 30 Canada 1-1.

Through the first 16 matches, eight ended in ties. The other two weren't exactly of the shocking variety: No. 18 Japan was a slight underdog going into its 2-2 tie with No. 8 Netherlands, and No. 6 Brazil and No. 7 Morocco - as would be expected, given how close they are in the world rankings - tied their opening match 1-1.

There's been only one match through Monday where a team was 10 or more spots below its opponent in the FIFA world rankings going in and won: No. 33 Ivory Coast beating No. 23 Ecuador 1-0.

Not exactly a shocker. But some of these ties would qualify as such.

"Football is like that," Spain coach Luis de la Fuente said. "There are no small opponents here." —AP

HIGHLIGHTS

Not racist, just a twitch: FIFA lets off official

A World Cup video review official said his hand gesture resembling a white supremacist sign was caused by an involuntary twitch, and a FIFA committee concluded the Australian didn't breach the sport's disciplinary code.

FIFA's discrimination monitor had called for Shaun Evans to be removed from the tournament.

Evans worked Germany's opening 7-1 win over Curacao on Sunday as an assistant to the video assistant referee, based at the World Cup broadcast center in Dallas. When the official broadcast cut before the game to show the video review officials, Evans made an "OK" symbol with his right hand in front of his right leg.

"I did not intentionally make a hand gesture or symbol to communicate a message, affiliation, game or belief of any kind," Evans said in a statement released Monday by FIFA. -PTI

Iran honours victims of Minab strikes

Iran on Tuesday honoured the memory of the students who were killed in the February 2026 missile strike on a primary school in Minab.

The country's football team is competing under the name "Minab 168" and wearing gold pins on their uniforms as an emotional tribute in their FIFA World Cup 2026 campaign.

The Spokesperson of Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Esmaeil Baqaei, said that Iran's resilience was built upon the shoulders of the memory and sacrifice of departed souls.

In a post on X, he shared a Lego-inspired video showcasing the heartfelt message, "Iran, with all its wounds, still stands tall, and its children, with broad chests and unwavering resolve, are ready to compete on the world stage. The prayers of a nation accompany the national team on their path; for them, for Iran, and for the raising of this flag, we chant the sacred name «Iran» in unison..." -ANI

Tunisia manager Lamouchi sacked over drubbing

Tunisia have reportedly sacked their manager Sabri Lamouchi just one game into their FIFA World Cup campaign following a brutal 5-1 loss to Sweden in their campaign opener.

The North African side was left absolutely exposed in terms of their defence during their campaign opener against Sweden on Sunday, making it one of Tunisia's worst results at the international level. A brace from Yasin Ayari and strikes from Alexander Isak, Viktor Gyokeres and Mattias Svanberg piled up misery on Tunisia, who could manage just one strike by Omar Rekik in the 43rd minute.

According to journalist Romain Molina, quoted by Goal.com, the Tunisian Football Federation (FTF) terminated Lamouchi's deal after the match ended. While the on-field results did play a role, it is also reported that dressing room tensions also played a role in the coach's dismissal. -ANI

Creating a complete mess costs ₹5 cr

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

that are laid unscientifically. Sewage flows in reverse and overflows onto the ground through a manhole instead of flowing into the underground pipe if the toilet blocks are used by a large number of people.

"Overflowing sewage is a nuisance and a health hazard for people who visit Freedom Park for a walk. Development of the walking path is still pending even after a year. Workers damaged electrical cables while digging the pathway as part of the developmental work. The contractor is yet to focus on completing the pending work," said Save Freedom Park Agitation Committee President Gandasi Sadananda Swamy.

Expressing concern over the delay in the pathway work, S Nagaraj, a resident of Cubbonpete, said that he has been visiting Freedom Park for the last 15 years. "I find it tough to walk on the pathway on the eastern side due to the lack of lights. Stray dogs are ferocious and pose danger to the walkers. I appeal to the authorities concerned to fix these problems for the benefit of people who come here for a walk," said Nagaraj.

JA Chandrasekhar, who works at a law firm in Gandhinagar, said that he has been visiting Freedom Park for the last six months. "It is disappointing that the work is unfinished till now. The BCCC authorities must ensure completion of the pending work and restore electricity to illuminate the pathway," said Chandrasekhar.

The sight of a defunct drinking water unit near the main entrance of Freedom Park makes activists furious. The water drinking water unit with five water taps was installed by the BCCC authorities a few years ago and it was a boon for people who staged protests in support of their demands. However, only one tap is functioning right now, thus defeating the very purpose of installing the drinking water unit by spending lakhs of rupees.

"Workers damaged electrical cables while digging the pathway as part of the developmental work. The contractor is yet to focus on completing the pending work

— Gandasi Sadananda Swamy, Save Freedom Park Agitation Committee

Bangalore Mirror has reported about the how this lack of basic facilities impact protesters as Freedom Park is the only venue where protesters are allowed to gather.

On August 18, 2022, we wrote about how women midday meal workers on indefinite strike at Freedom Park are denied the facility of toilets and safe drinking water.

BCCC (Gandhinagar) Assistant Executive Engineer Shanthala told BM that she would look into the matter. "I will inspect the developmental works at Freedom Park. I will ensure completion of the pending works," the assistant executive engineer said.

Educational institutes, hotels highly inaccessible

Volunteers using the Yes to Access app to map and audit accessibility barriers across Bengaluru

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

locate and navigate accessible entrances. Audits also found that 4,819 locations lacked internal tactile pathways for persons with visual impairments, while 3,740 locations did not have ramps and 3,068 locations lacked accessible toilets.

Overall, about 18.6% of accessibility checks conducted in Bengaluru were marked as not accessible.

According to APD, the data highlights the difference between the existence of accessibility features and their actual usability.

"One of the most concerning findings from the Bengaluru accessibility checks was that many spaces appeared accessible at first glance but were not usable in practice. For example, buildings often had ramps that were too steep, accessible parking that was absent or poorly located, or toilets that were difficult to access independently. The checks also reinforced that accessibility barriers affect not only persons with disabilities but also senior citizens, pregnant women, parents with strollers, and people recovering from injuries. Everyday activities such as entering a building, finding a parking space, navigating pathways, or accessing a washroom can become challenging when accessibility is not considered comprehensively," said an APD spokesperson. "Key areas that require urgent attention include accessible parking, step-free entrances, clear signage and wayfinding, accessible toilets, tactile guidance for persons with visual impairments, and safer pedestrian infrastructure. Equally important is moving beyond a compliance mindset and adopting universal design principles that ensure public spaces are usable, safe, and dignified for everyone," the spokesperson added.

The audit data also sheds light on accessibility challenges across different categories of locations.

"Educational and Research Institutes recorded the highest share of inaccessible observations at 20.0%, followed closely by hotel and hospitality locations at 19.6%, retail and commercial locations at 19.5%, and office buildings at 19.2%. Other location types with relatively high inaccessible observation rates include schools at 18.6%, healthcare facilities at 18.4%, cafeterias and restaurants at 18.4%, and judicial and legal buildings at 18.1%," the said. Residential locations recorded 17.7%, while transportation services stood at 17.5%. Lower rates were observed in public spaces at 16.9%, recreational buildings at 16.6%, religious buildings at 16.3%.

They clarified that data is limited to locations checked for accessibility through YTA app only and should not be interpreted as representative of all location types or used to determine which categories face the greatest accessibility challenges overall.

APD noted that accessibility challenges are often influenced by broader urban development patterns rather than individual buildings alone.

"Areas that have seen more recent development, greater investment in infrastructure, stronger institutional presence, or higher levels of civic engagement tend to perform better on accessibility indicators. In contrast, locations with older infrastructure, unplanned growth, limited resources for retrofitting, or lower awareness of accessibility standards may face greater barriers," they said.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, MOHAMED MATEEN A, JP Nagar Bengaluru -78, hereby declare that my name has been recorded as "MOHAMED MATEEN" in the educational records of my son, MOHAMMED YUSUF. My correct name is "MOHAMED MATEEN A". Both names refer to one and the same person, as affirmed by Affidavit dtd 15/6/2026 sworn before Notary Shri Aravind Patil G.G., Bengaluru.

I SABEEHA R/@ No 3/5 Deva Nahalli Kumbarpet Bengaluru-560002 has changed my name to SABEENA BEGUM for all purposes

I, Nazia Bano w/o ashraf Sharief # 93 1st Cross D J Halli Bengaluru-45 have changed my name to Naziya Banu for all purposes.

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I, BASIL RONALD CHRISTY, residing at No. 17, 2nd Cross, KSFC Layout, Lingarajapuram, Bengaluru 560084, hereby declare that the names BASIL RONALD CHRISTY and BASIL RONALD C appearing in different documents refer to one and the same person. Vide affidavit dated 16/06/2026 sworn before notary B.Seshagiri, Bengaluru

I, SANGEETA SANJEEV KUMAR RAKSHALE residing at B2902, Variohomes, 100 Feet Kempanapura Main Road, Near Nagavara Lake, Bengaluru - 560045, have changed my name to SANGEETA RAKSHALE vide affidavit dated 16/06/2026 sworn before notary, B Seshagiri Bengaluru

I, Rashida Huzefa Johar, R/o JOHAR VILLAS, AMAKINE BURHANIYAH GOTTIGERE, BG ROAD, BENGALURU - 560083 Have changed my minor Daughter's name from Sakina Johar to Sakina Huzefa Johar. She shall be called by this name for all purposes

I, formerly known as MUKTHIYAR, S/o Abdul Rahim, residing at Bengaluru, have changed my name to MUKTHIYAR PASHA vide Affidavit/Deed Poll dated 17.10.2019. Henceforth, I shall be known as MUKTHIYAR PASHA for all purposes.

I, Sumit Sajjan Agrawal, Aged 39 yrs, R/o. E1301, Purva Westend Apt., Hosur Rd, Behind Kudlu Gate Bus Stop, GB Palya, Blr-560068, have changed my name to SUMIT AGRAWAL vide affidavit Dt: 15/06/26 before Notary M. Rajendra, Blr.

I, Amirahemad Jafarbhai Lodha S/o Jafar Kudus Lodha R/o No 110/2 2nd Floor 80 Feet Road Mohan Kumar Nagar Yeswanthpura Bengaluru 560022 Have Changed My Name to Amir Ahmad Jafar Lodha for All Purposes.

I, Suresh Nanjay Gowda S/O Nanjay Narsim Gowda R/o Rayasamudra,krishnarajpet Taluk,mandya Dist,karnataka-571426 have changed my name to Suresha Rayasamudra Nanjegowda. for all purpose

I Pratik Dineshchander Maheshwari s/o Dineshchander Patwari R/o A1201, Tower A Daffodil, Salarpuria Sattva Luxuria,8th Main Rd, Malleswaram, B'luru-560012, have changed my name to Pratik Maheshwari for all purposes.

I, Vasantha Kumar S/o Ananda Showrappa Andhra R/o No 37/C Ward No 22 Old Market Street Cowl Bazar Bellary 583102 Have Changed My Name to Vasanth Kumar for All Purposes.

I, Bhagyashree Hiremath R/o No 11/26 Ground Floor 10th D Cross 2nd Stage Woc Road Mahalaksmipuram Bengaluru 560086 Have Changed My Name To Bhagyashree For All Purposes.

I Parveen D/O, Abdul Khuddus R/o No.298 2nd Cross Muniyappa Layout Mangammanapalya Bommanahalli Bangalore 560068 have changed my name to Parveen Taj.

I, Prathap D R/o no 13/1 4 th cross Indira nagar LBS Nagar Bangalore 560038 Changed Name of my Minor Son from P likhith to likhith P for all future Purposes

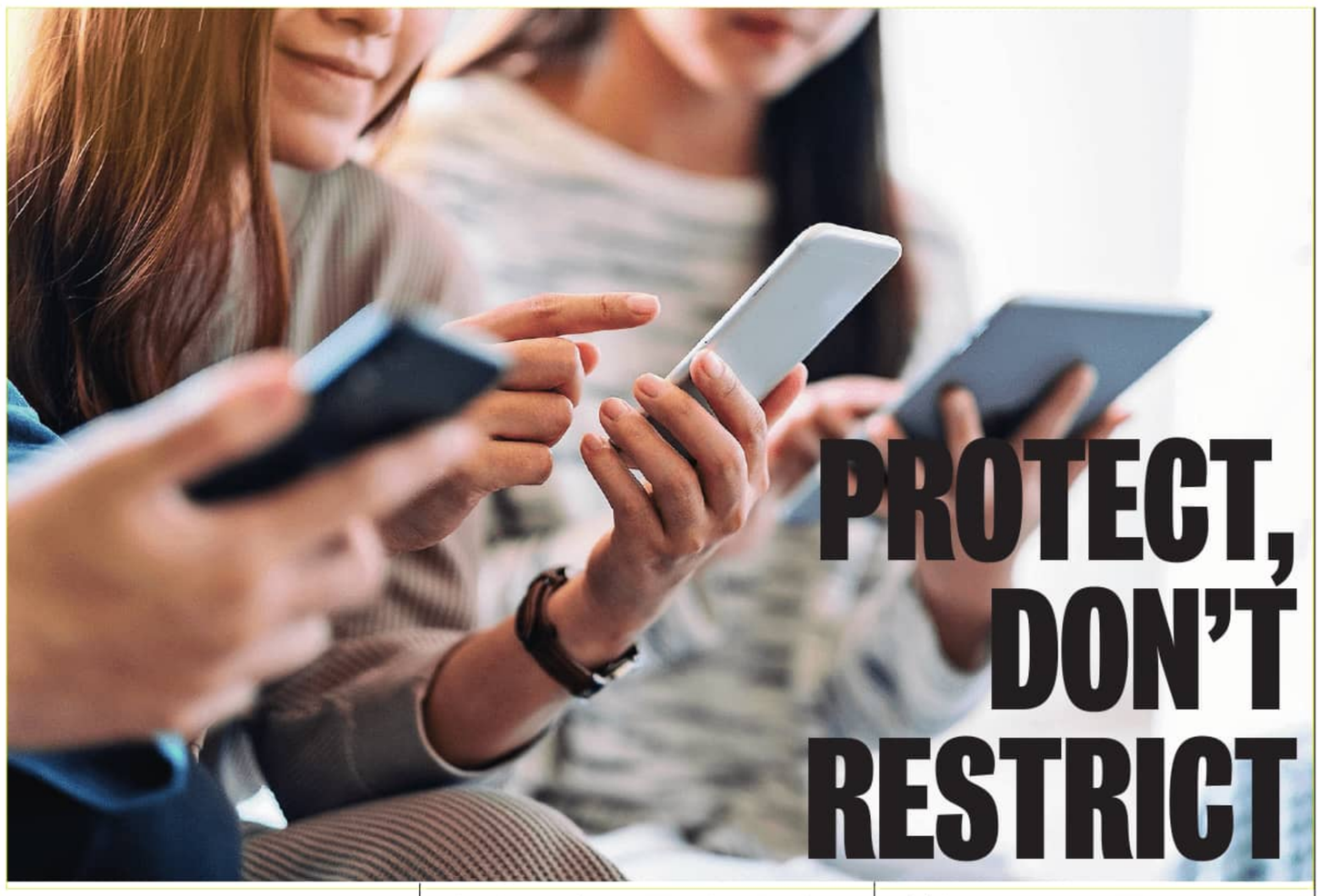
I, Prathap D R/o no 13/1 4 th cross Indira nagar LBS Nagar Bangalore 560038 Changed Name of my Minor Son from P Likhil to Likhil P for all future Purposes

I Sadiya Siddiga D/O, Aslam R/o No 66 Katha No 51/4 Quba Masjid Road Devasandra Bangalore 560036 have changed my name to Sadiya Siddiqa A.

I, Mohmed Rafiq PM R/o 2/4 VB layout New Extn Krishnarajpuram B'lore-560036 have changed my name name to Mohammed Rafiq PM.

I, Farhana H C R/o #255, 3rd Main Near Ayesha Mosque Main mangannapalya B'lore-560068 have changed my name to Farhana C.

I, Lubna Sadia H R/o F2 17/24 4th Cross 6th Main Road Bhuvaneshwari Nagar B'lore-560032 have changed my name to Lubna Sadia



PROTECT, DON'T RESTRICT

Experts urge stronger online safety requires platform reforms, stronger protections and better oversight for teenagers

Society has complicated relationships with adolescents. We want to protect them as children and yet launch them into adulthood. Adolescents face risks from testing out independence, navigating peer relationships, developing an identity and making mistakes in these processes.

Today's teens have new areas of risk and opportunity as they navigate the digital world, and this has led to debate over their social media use.

Concern about social media use by 13- to 17-year-olds has led to state initiatives as well as proposed federal legislation. Following the Surgeon General's Advisory on Social Media and Youth Mental Health, issued on May 23, 2023, the Biden administration convened the Kids Online Health and Safety Task Force.

We are pediatricians who study child online behavior, and we are co-directors of the American Academy of Pediatrics Center of Excellence on Social Media and Youth Mental Health.

As we consider the role of the federal government in regulating teen social media use, we believe it is important to support adolescents' drive for independence and social interactions while protecting them from serious harm or having their identities commodified by powerful technology companies.

Without commenting on any specific piece of active legislation, here are elements of potential policy related to children and technology that we believe would be helpful, and those we are concerned could be harmful.

Ideal legislation

Key to any effective online child safety legislation is accountability, so platforms are designed with the needs of children and adolescents in mind, rather than being driven by engagement and revenue goals.

Default privacy protections are also crucial. Young people often receive — and don't want — contact from unknown adults. These are typically marketers or random strangers, dubbed "randos." Teens often teach each other ways to try to be safe, leading to practices that may or may not be effective.

Methods for stopping online child sexual exploitation are not adequate, and elements of proposed legislation could help by limiting who can contact teens outside their known social circles. Making young users' accounts private by default would allow them to have online interactions only with friends and communities they seek out. Encouraging collaboration among technology platforms to flag users who pose a threat and identify problematic practices is also crucial.

Prohibiting data collection from young people would also help. Behavioral data from digital breadcrumbs reveals a lot about users, allowing technology companies to sort them into categories to predict what they might buy or click on next. This practice is unethical because it can exploit susceptibility to self-harm and low impulse control. It is also incompatible with the adolescent development ideal of exploration. Teens are harmed when apps and sites nudge them in particular directions to profit from them.

Legislation could also require technology companies to take user-reported problems more seriously. Companies could make clear the process for reporting problematic content or people, and what steps they will take after a report. Anecdotally, we have both heard in our pediatric clinical practices that teens don't make these reports because they don't trust that anything will happen in response.

The federal government could also fund additional research. Despite the past decade of prolific social media research, there remains a lack of common data formats, metrics to measure key concepts and interventions to promote well-being.

Legislation that would be harmful

Requiring parent permissions would be harmful. This restrictive approach would limit access to safe places for many young people and exclude teens who are in unsupportive family settings. These approaches also put the burden on parents to be gatekeepers for every decision about platform access, increasing family conflict.

Shutting down particular social media is also problematic. Singling out individual platforms does not address the systemic revenue-driven designs and business models that exist throughout the industry.

Thirteen is a common minimum age for social media platforms. Imposing age limits from 13 to 16 would also not be helpful. This proposal is not supported by clear evidence about what age range is best for all teens. It is developmentally appropriate for 13-year-olds to want to connect with peers online.

Adolescents themselves support needing to meet developmental milestones to use social media, and they acknowledge that individual teens may meet these at different ages.

Families and adults who work with youth also need resources to better support adolescents. Finally, adults must also be accountable for their own social media and technology use. Many teens report that parents' social media use distracts from parent-child interaction and negatively affects them. To support young people, adults should model appropriate online behavior, including being able to set their own phones down to be present for the critical, often tumultuous, yet amazing stage of adolescents' development.

Megan Moreno, University of Wisconsin-Madison and Jenny Radesky, University of Michigan
The Conversation

MIRRORLIGHTS

Blood test predicts organ ageing, disease risk

Researchers have developed a blood-based indicator of an organ's age that can assess its current age and predict the risk of a disease affecting it 10 years later.

Biological age measures how well the body functions compared to chronological age. However, organs inside the body age at different speeds.

The researchers, including those from Stanford University in the US, examined 11 organ systems — brain, muscle, heart, lung, arteries, liver, kidneys, pancreas, immune system, intestine and fat.

"We've developed a blood-based indicator of the age of your organs. With this indicator, we can assess the age of an organ today and predict the odds of you getting a disease associated with that organ 10 years later," senior author Tony Wyss-Coray, professor of neurology and neurological sciences at Stanford University School of Medicine, said.

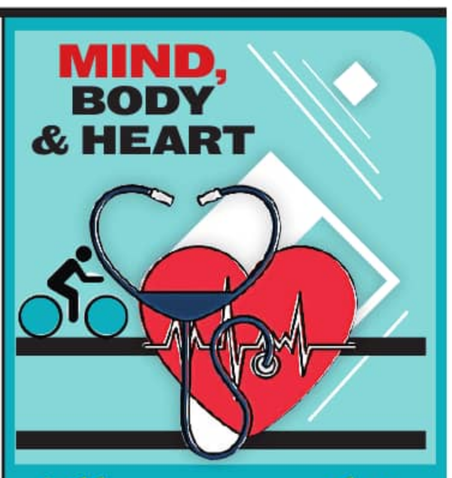
Findings published in Nature Medicine showed that the biological age of the brain plays an "outsized" role in determining longevity.

Nearly 45,000 people aged 40 to 70 were randomly selected from the UK Biobank and monitored for up to 17 years. Researchers measured about 3,000 proteins in participants' blood and developed an algorithm to assign a biological age to each organ system.

The link between an extremely aged brain and Alzheimer's disease was particularly strong, with a 3.1-times higher risk than a normally ageing brain.

"The brain is the gatekeeper of longevity. If you have an old brain, you have an increased likelihood of mortality. If you've got a young brain, you're probably going to live longer," Wyss-Coray said.

—PTI



All you need to know about...

Summer imbalance

Electrolytes and keto
People following a ketogenic diet may face a higher risk of electrolyte imbalance during extreme summer heat. While keto is known for supporting metabolic health, steady energy levels and weight management, it also changes how the body handles water and minerals. Symptoms such as headaches, fatigue, dizziness and muscle cramps are often dismissed as effects of hot weather, but they can signal low electrolyte levels in people on keto.

Why levels drop
A ketogenic diet works by reducing carbohydrate intake, forcing the body to switch from using glucose to burning fat and producing ketones for energy. One lesser-known effect is a drop in insulin levels. Lower insulin causes the kidneys to release more salt. This makes keto a mild diuretic diet, increasing the chances of dehydration and electrolyte depletion, especially during hot weather when sweating further accelerates mineral loss.

Warning signs
Common signs of low electrolytes include persistent headaches, dizziness, fatigue despite adequate sleep, brain fog, muscle cramps, poor exercise tolerance, cravings for sweets or carbohydrates, poor sleep quality and a feeling of dehydration even after drinking enough water.

Summer survival tips
Experts recommend starting the day with water mixed with a pinch of natural sea salt or pink Himalayan salt. Including avocados, almonds, seeds and leafy greens in meals can also help replenish minerals. Monitoring energy levels and muscle function, considering magnesium supplements when necessary, and adjusting electrolyte intake according to weather conditions, physical activity and sweat loss can help maintain balance throughout summer.

—Femina

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@BangaloreMirror

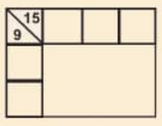
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

$[(\sqrt[3]{20}) \times (\sqrt[3]{20}) \times (\sqrt[3]{20})] / \sqrt{x} = \sqrt{x}$

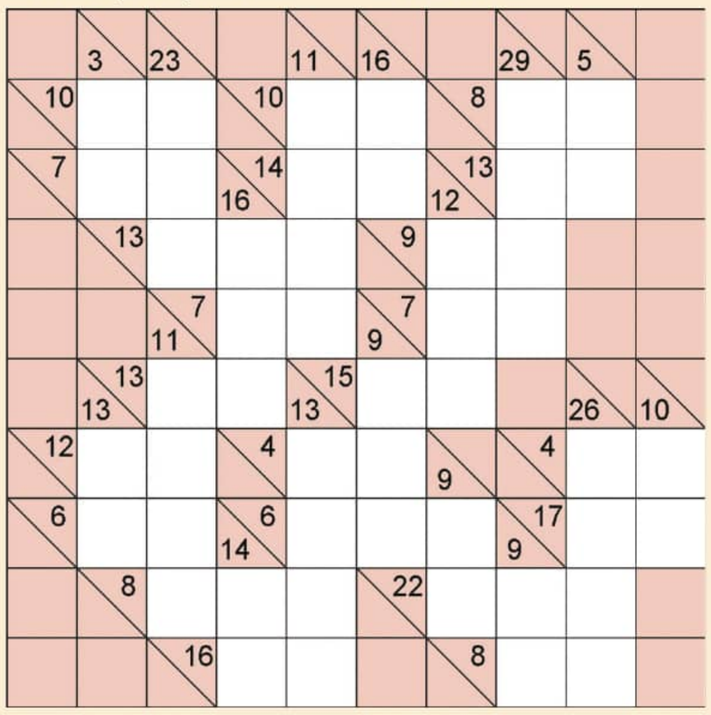
$x = ?$

Kakuro

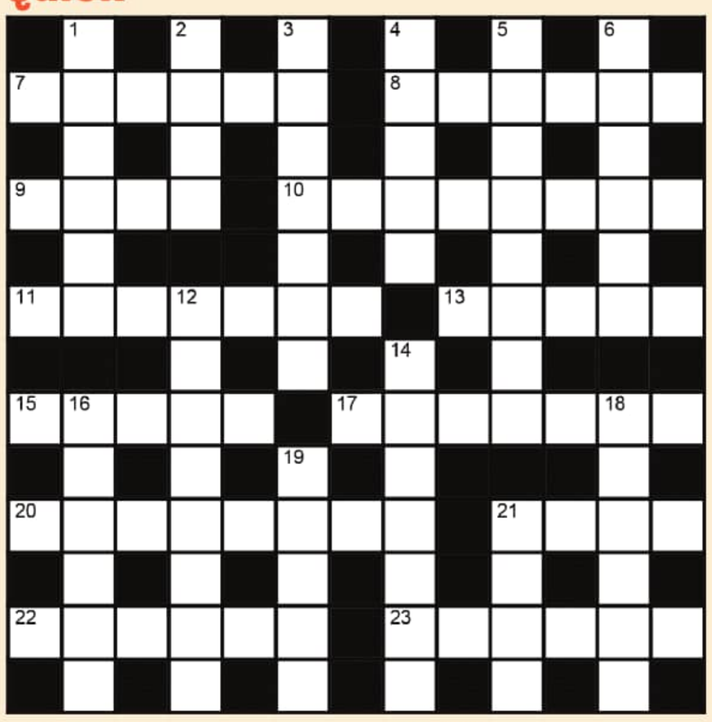
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Going steady (6)
8 Staggered (6)
9 ___ in : interrupt or meddle? (4)
10 Tricked (8)
11 Spent time in idleness (7)
13 Evade or elude (5)
15 ___ with : abounds or is present in large number? (5)
17 Theatre at Rajaji Nagar (7)
20 They temper with race horses to prevent them from winning (8)
21 California valley (4)
22 Buccaneer (6)
23 Of imposing size (6)

DOWN

1 Japanese gangsters (6)
2 Edict, an absolute order (4)
3 Disregards (7)
4 Intense anger (5)
5 Repeater pistol? (8)
6 Dweller on the Red Sea (6)
12 Edible seed (4,4)
14 Chorizo or frankfurter (7)
16 Not native (6)
18 Viz., that is to say? (6)
19 Start over (5)
21 Sluggish (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: U EQUALS G

AQBMVQWQJT QA BHZQGU JDC XIPEGCT IO JDQA VQOC SQJD XPAJ KHUUHUC CGIPUD.

Linemaro

You are so beautiful, I forgot my pick up line

Mindchow

Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds you plant

Joke of the day

Confidence is what you have before you understand the problem

Loop

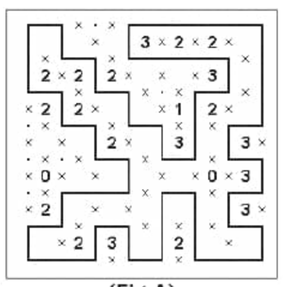
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

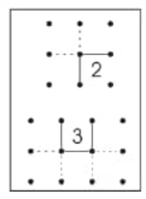
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

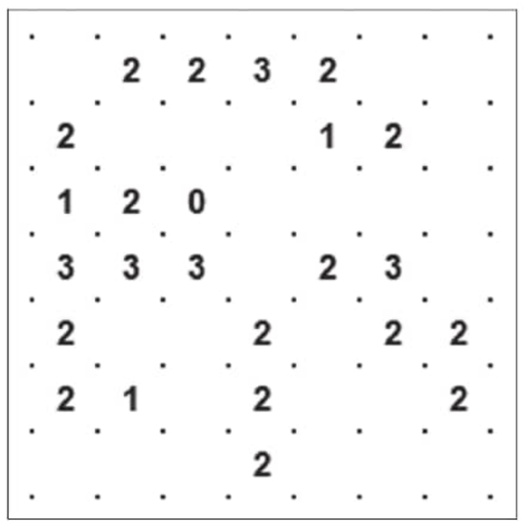
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



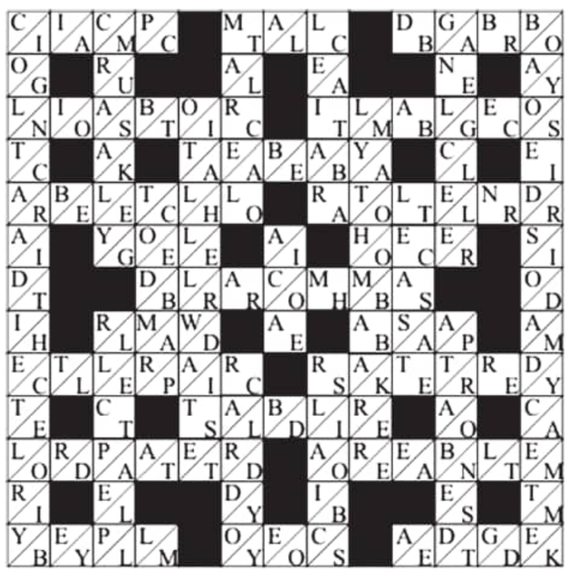
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9		K		

ACROSS

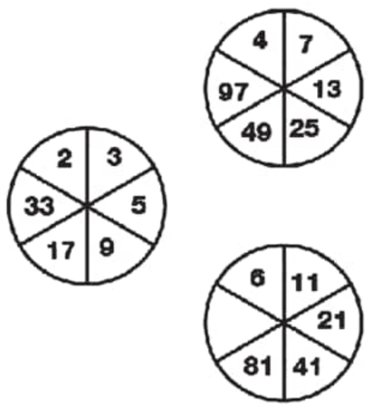
1 Ruff G; 6 Or rum; 7 Maine; 8 Dames; 9 Sunk a

DOWN

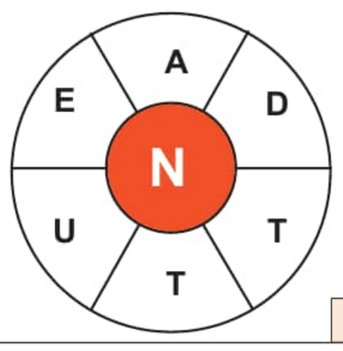
1 Rag ma; 2 Run me; 3 UK Aim; 4 Found; 5 Serfs

Mensapuzzle

Which number is missing from the last wheel?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

15 Average; 17 Good; 19 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	5	4	2		9	3	6	
7								1
		9	1		6	4		
	3			6			1	
6								7
	2			1			4	
		6	5		3	1		
8								2
	4	2	7		1	9	5	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 14

6 7 8 9

Medium = 13

1 2 4 8

Hard = 35

2 3 5 8

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

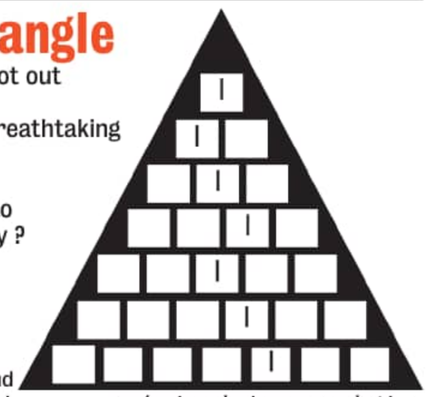
Differences: 1. Side table is taller. 2. Window is smaller. 3. Cap is reversed. 4. Foot is moved. 5. Back of chair is lower. 6. Collar is missing.

Riddler

All about, but cannot be seen, Can be captured, cannot be held No throat, but can be heard.

Alpha triangle

1 Third vowel 2 Not out
3 Bathtub liquor
4 No pain no _! 5 Breathtaking
6 Walking through shallow water
7 _ on : beginning to be understood by ?



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

SWEE'PEA SEZ HE HAS TO FIND HIMSELF!
'TIS JUST A PROBLEM OF GROWING UP!
WHEN I WAS HIS AGE I DIDN'T WORRY ABOUT FINDING MESELF!
9-15
YOU WERE INDEED LUCKY!
I'LL SAY I WAS!! I NEVER GOT LORST! ME PAPPY TAUGHT ME TO USE A COMPASS!
?
?
!
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Bizarrotrip

Wayno® & 3 PIRRO. 3.6.26
Dist. by King Features
As Commander of Questionable Operations, you'll be reporting directly to the Secretary of Evolving Explanations.
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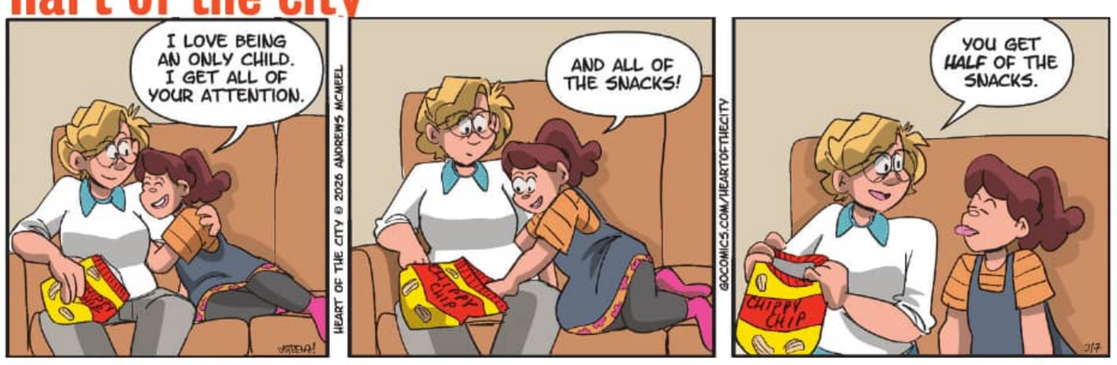
Diamond Lil

Dick the Snowman's
INSTAGRAM account
©2015 creators.com 3/7
dickthesnowman
My diet is working! The pounds are just melting away! Looking good!!!!
www.creators.com
DICK ISN'T THE BRIGHTEST CRAYON IN THE BOX, IS HE?
Beartistry

Hart of the city


I LOVE BEING AN ONLY CHILD. I GET ALL OF YOUR ATTENTION.
AND ALL OF THE SNACKS!
YOU GET HALF OF THE SNACKS.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2026 ANDREWS MCMEEL
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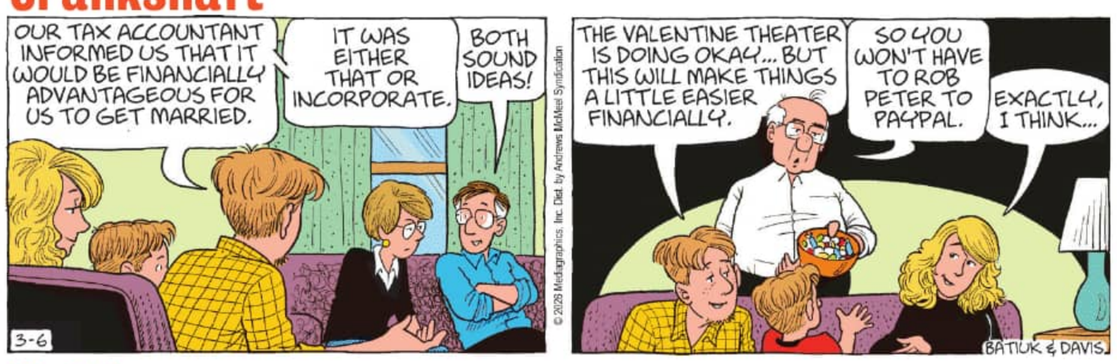
Crankshaft


OUR TAX ACCOUNTANT INFORMED US THAT IT WOULD BE FINANCIALLY ADVANTAGEOUS FOR US TO GET MARRIED.
IT WAS EITHER THAT OR INCORPORATE.
BOTH SOUND IDEAS!
3-6
© 2026 Mediagraphics, Inc. Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
THE VALENTINE THEATER IS DOING OKAY... BUT THIS WILL MAKE THINGS A LITTLE EASIER FINANCIALLY.
SO YOU WON'T HAVE TO ROB PETER TO PAYPAL.
EXACTLY, I THINK...
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

LITTLE PINK SOCK LITTLE PINK SOCK
OH, LITTLE PINK SOCK — I LOVE YOU MORE THAN EVER!
I FILLED IT UP WITH CAT TREATS.
3-6
mutts.com
www.kingfeatures.com

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Intellectual pursuits bring immense satisfaction today, so dive into a book or documentary. At work, your articulate communication style wins over a sceptical client or manager. A financial decision requires a secondary opinion; do not rush into contracts. Romance is delightfully subtle, thriving on shared glances and quiet moments. Boost your circulation with a high-intensity workout.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Good karma supports you today, though success still requires effort and determination from your side. Positive intentions create opportunities, but action brings results. Stay motivated, work consistently, and trust your progress unfolding steadily ahead beautifully.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
An old friendship may return unexpectedly today, bringing healing, understanding, and renewed connection your way. Letting go of past tensions creates space for meaningful companionship again. Rekindling this bond could positively enrich your life greatly.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Misunderstandings may arise today, though clear communication helps resolve them quickly and peacefully. Express yourself honestly while remaining open to other perspectives too. Mutual understanding strengthens relationships beautifully and keeps unnecessary tension from growing further today.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Positive energy surrounds you completely today, filling your mindset with optimism, peace, and emotional strength. Ignore negativity from others and protect your uplifting outlook carefully. Meditation, focus, and gratitude help your confidence shine even brighter.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Healthy competition motivates you strongly today, encouraging greater productivity and ambition naturally. Striving toward excellence inspires impressive results, though balance remains important. Staying grounded ensures competitive energy remains positive, rewarding, and beneficial for everyone involved.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Focusing too heavily on others may distract you from your own personal goals and growth today. Prioritising yourself brings clarity and motivation beautifully. Investing more energy into your ambitions helps you move closer toward desired success.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today strongly favours organization, planning, and handling important logistical responsibilities efficiently. Whether arranging events, travel, or schedules, your clear thinking supports smooth execution beautifully. Others trust your abilities, making collaboration and preparation especially successful now.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Adding mystery, curiosity, and exploration into your routine inspires fresh motivation and creativity today. Researching something fascinating broadens your perspective beautifully. Following your interests now may spark ideas that benefit future goals and exciting projects.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Outside opinions may try influencing your choices today, though trusting yourself remains far more important. Your path belongs entirely to you. Following your instincts confidently helps you make decisions aligned with your happiness and personal values.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
An important change arrives today, encouraging growth beyond your usual routines and comfort zones. Embracing this shift positively opens exciting possibilities for learning and success. Flexibility and openness help you gain valuable new experiences and skills.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Your spending habits deserve extra attention today, especially regarding unnecessary purchases or impulsive expenses. Saving wisely now creates stronger stability and peace of mind later. Thoughtful financial decisions help protect your future security and independence beautifully.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Nostalgia may pull you toward old memories and emotional reflections today. Reconnecting with someone meaningful brings comfort, warmth, and reassurance naturally. Sharing stories and cherished moments helps strengthen bonds while lifting your spirits beautifully again.

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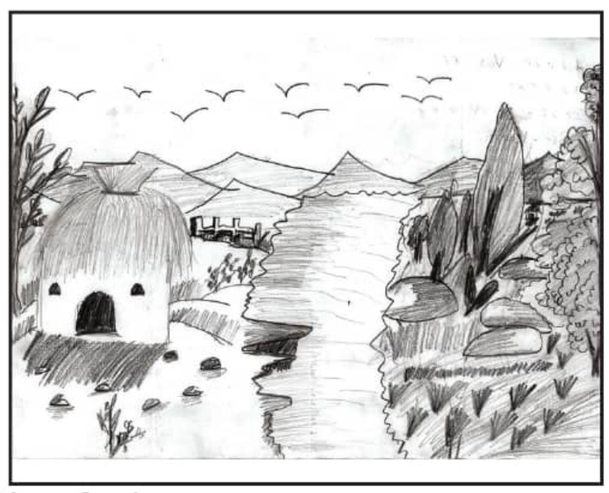
KIDZONE

Tharun, Bengaluru



Ananya, Bengaluru

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Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
(20^1/3)×(20^1/3)×(20^1/3)=√x × √x
x= 20^(1/3 + 1/3 + 1/3)
x=20^3/3
x = 20^1
x =20

RIDDLER
Sounds or noises

QUOTE UNCODE
Simplicity is making the journey of this life with just baggage enough.

FAST FIVE

G	R	U	F	F
R	U	M	O	R
A	M	I	N	E
M	E	A	D	S
A	N	K	U	S

STRIKE OUT

C	A	M	P	M	A	C	B	A	R	B				
O	U		A		E		N		A					
N	O	S	T	O	C	I	M	A	G	E	S			
T	K		T	A	B	B	Y		L		I			
R	E	E	C	H	O		A	T	T	E	N	D		
A		D	R	A	C	H	M	A		H	E	R		I
D			A	W		E		A	S	P		M		O
I		R					S	K	E	R	R	Y		
C	L	E	R	I	C		S	A	B	L	E		O	
T		C		S		A	B	L	E		O		C	
O	R	A	T	E	D		A	R	A	B	L	E		
R		L		D		B			E			T		
Y	E	L	L		Y	E	S		E	D	G	E		

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE
161. In each circle, going clockwise, double the first number and subtract 1 to give the next number.

BULL'S EYE
ante, anted, attend, attune, ATTUNED, aunt, daunt, dean, dent, dune, neat, nude, taunt, TAUNTED, tend, tent, tuna, tune, tuned

SUDOKU

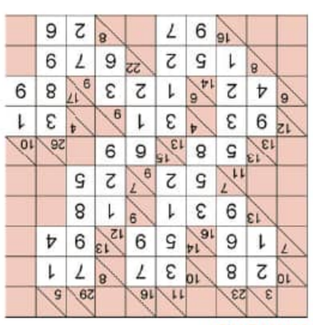
3	4	2	7	8	1	9	5	6
8	1	5	6	9	4	7	3	2
9	7	6	5	2	3	1	8	4
5	2	8	9	1	7	6	4	3
6	9	1	3	4	5	8	2	7
4	3	7	8	6	2	5	1	9
2	8	9	1	3	6	4	7	5
7	6	3	4	5	8	2	9	1
1	5	4	2	7	9	3	6	8

ALPHA TRIANGLE
I, In, Gin, Gain, Awing, Wading, Dawning.

GO FIGURE
Easy
6 + 9 − 8 + 7 = 14
Medium
2 x 8 + 1 − 4 = 13
Hard
2 + 8 x 3 + 5 = 35

LOOP

KAKURO



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JLo's bug shock

Jennifer Lopez recalled a giant cricket landing on her neck mid-song in Kazakhstan, staying composed before it flew away like a helicopter

Karisma's fond tribute

Bollywood actress Karisma Kapoor, who is currently seen as a judge on the dance reality show "India's Best Dancer Season 5", has shared some fond memories of working with legendary choreographer Saroj Khan and her son, choreographer Raju Khan.

Speaking on the show, Karisma reflected on her long association with Raju Khan and expressed her happiness at sharing the judging panel with him.

"Maine Raju ji ke sath bohot gaane kiye hain, and I am so happy and privileged that he has come for the first time, where I am judging this panel with him, and we are going to celebrate his mother, celebrate him, aur main ek joke and trivia bata du."

She also recalled a light-hearted joke Saroj Khan often made about their successful collaborations.

"Ki Saroj ji is my guru aur unhone mujhe dance sikhaya aur jaise maine last episode mein kaha 'Tamma Tamma Loge' gaane tak woh mujhe karati thi, par humara joke hota tha industry mein when she used to make me dance. I am the guru, par aap mere bete ke saath zyada superhit gaane karte ho."

"But she loved it, adored her son, supported his creativity, and all of us spent time together."

—ETimes

Saif admits missteps

More than a decade after the release of 'Agent Vinod', Saif Ali Khan has candidly reflected on why the spy thriller failed to achieve the success many had anticipated.

During a recent interaction with Variety India, Saif said the film's ambition may have worked against it. "I think of 'Agent Vinod' as a film that might have been in vain. But also, that film opened really well, you know. It's just that it did not sustain because it probably wasn't a tightly made film, or it went off track in many ways. Or, as Sriram himself said, he put too many toppings on the pizza."

Despite its box-office performance, Saif defended the concept. "But the idea wasn't bad, and the title wasn't bad, and it was the right film to make. Imagine a kind of spy movie ahead of its time, perhaps. It was a cool film, but it should have held more. Maybe we made some mistakes."

He added, "But my point is: it was vanity. I was excited to do that. I made the film for myself, but it did open well. So its failure was not because it was a vain idea."

—ETimes

ALIA JOINS KALKI?

Speculation around Alia's role fuels excitement for Nag Ashwin's upcoming blockbuster

The sequel to 'Kalki 2898 AD' continues to generate excitement despite the makers maintaining complete secrecy around the project. Director Nag Ashwin and his team are reportedly filming crucial portions of the movie in Hyderabad, away from the spotlight. While official updates remain scarce, a fresh casting rumour has sparked widespread discussion online.

According to Aakashavaani and Telugu Chitraalu, multiple reports suggest that Alia Bhatt has joined the ambitious sci-fi franchise in a significant role. Although the production house has not confirmed the development, the speculation has quickly become one of the hottest topics among movie enthusiasts.

Reports indicate that Alia's character will not be connected to Sumathi, the role played by Deepika Padukone in the first instalment. Instead, she is expected to portray a completely new character whose presence could significantly influence the sequel's narrative. The actress has also reportedly completed filming a few scenes for the project. While details about her role remain under wraps, the reports have fuelled curiosity about how she might fit into the expansive futuristic world established in 'Kalki 2898 AD'.

Industry reports suggest that the makers have already completed two major shooting schedules featuring Amitabh Bachchan and Kamal Haasan, both of whom played pivotal roles in the first film. Their return has heightened expectations for the sequel, which is expected to explore the mythology, futuristic conflicts and larger universe introduced in the blockbuster original. Prabhas will reprise the lead role. The film's scale and visual ambition have also contributed to growing anticipation among audiences across the country.

The reports also triggered discussions across social media platforms and Reddit. While many users expressed excitement about another major Bollywood star joining the franchise, others questioned how her character would fit into an already packed ensemble. Several fans believe Alia's addition could bring a fresh dynamic to the narrative.

Neither Vyjayanthi Movies nor the filmmakers have commented on the casting rumours so far. Fans now await an official announcement to determine whether the reports hold any truth.

—ETimes

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Global Lambodhara

The upcoming science-fiction social thriller Lambodhara 2.0, directed by Simple Suni, continues to attract international attention as an official delegation from the Office of the Mayor of West Midlands, United Kingdom, along with members of India Global Forum, visited the film's shooting location and spent a day understanding the workings of the Kannada film industry.

The delegation interacted with the cast and crew and learned about the production of the film, which blends science fiction, action and contemporary social themes. Starring debutants Anil Shetty and Saachi Bindra alongside Kunal Kapoor, the film explores artificial intelligence, digital influence and human happiness. The visitors invited the team for a special screening in Birmingham and discussed future cultural collaborations. They also met key production members and expressed appreciation for the film's scale, ambition and innovative storytelling approach, while encouraging wider international outreach and audience engagement.

Kanakaraja returns

Anoop Revanna, the son of former minister HM Revanna, is all set to make a comeback after a gap of two years. Anoop's previous movie was Hide and Seek, which was released in March 2024.

A function was held at Kalavidara Sangha on Saturday, where former minister HM Revanna unveiled a song from the film and veteran actor Doddanna released its poster. Politician Venkatesh, Kannada Film Chamber of Commerce president Krishne Gowda and Kannada Movie Producers' Association vice-president Nandihal attended as guests of honour.

Produced by SR Sanath Kumar under Sukruthi Chitralaya and directed by R Ravindra, the film has a script, screenplay, dialogues and music by Dr V Nagendra Prasad. "The movie is made by keeping youths in mind. The protagonist becomes a hardcore fan of the Chief Minister," he said. Anoop added, "I played the advocate who is a hardcore fan of the Chief Minister."